Candles

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Candles

by sourweather

Summary

When the initial plan for their first date falls through, Will drags Han to a mall and improvises

Notes

See the end of the work for notes

Will hadn't planned to end up here.

In fact, it couldn't be much farther from what they'd had in mind. Hannibal had made a reservation for them, at a French restaurant about fifteen minutes outside the city. Evidently that first date wasn't what the universe had in mind for them, though, because Hannibal's car broke down on the way.

Hannibal's stressed. It doesn't take an empath to see it. It's sweet, really. He wanted tonight to go perfectly, for Will to have such a splendid time that he wouldn't dream of turning down a second date in the future. Will has half a mind to tell him that he's sulking over nothing. He hadn't said yes tonight because he had a particular affinity for French cuisine, after all. No, he'd said yes because, for whatever reason, he genuiniely enjoyed the time they spent together.

Determined to salvage both the evening and his date's mood, Will had scanned their surroundings. The tow truck would be another forty-five minutes, at the absolute soonest. No point in sticking around on the roadside if they were walking distance from anything more stimulating.

And so, Will and Hannibal, both dressed to the nines, have ended up in the Bath and Body Works of a nearby shopping mall.

"I apologize about our reservation," Hannibal is saying, but Will takes him by the hand and leads him toward a large display of candles. "I could call you a taxi home, if you'd like."

"Close your eyes."

Hannibal blinks. "I beg your pardon?"

Will smirks up at him. "Just do it."

He sighs, but obeys. Will studies the display. He plucks a blue candle from its place, opens the lid, inhales. Not bad. He holds it out, just in front of the other man's face. "Smell this."

Hannibal leans forward slightly, his brow furrowing. His face bumps the glass and it makes Will chuckle. "It's very sweet," he says. "The scents here are very artificial. Not exactly subtle."

Will rolls his eyes, even as Hannibal's remain shut. "Guess the scent," he instructs.

Hannibal sniffs again. "Hibiscus," he notes. "And peach."

As Hannibal opens his eyes, Will frowns at the label. "Says it's supposed to smell like 'Waterfall Mist'." He brings the candle to his own nose. "What's a waterfall meant to smell like?"

"I suppose it depends on the waterfall."

Will snorts, setting down the candle before closing his own eyes. He takes a deep, centering breath. “Okay. Do me.”

“Will,” Hannibal sighs.

“Loosen up,” he urges. “Look, I know you’re disappointed about dinner, but we can still have a good time tonight, can’t we?”

Hannibal doesn’t reply right away. Will lifts a brow.

“Would you rather go to the Claire’s on the other side of the mall?” he teases, and Hannibal laughs softly. It makes Will’s chest turn tight.

“This one, then,” he says, and Will inhales.

“Oh, this one’s easy,” Will says. “You’re giving me a softball. Strawberries and vanilla.”

Hannibal is smiling when Will opens his eyes. “Correct.”

Will bites his lip. “Your turn.”

When Hannibal closes his eyes again, Will darts close and presses a kiss to his lips. Hannibal smiles against his mouth.

“Well?” he whispers as he pulls away.

Hannibal smirks.

“Cedar trees, sea salt, and dark roast coffee,” he replies. “A scent I’d be inclined to purchase.” And he leans close and breathes Will in again.

Will laughs, kisses him once more. “Flirt,” he teases. “Do you want to go go sit at the food court and people watch with me? I’ll buy you a soft pretzel.”

Hannibal grimaces. Will can’t help but grin. “I’ll pass on the pretzel, I think. But… yes, that sounds nice.”

End Notes

I'm serious about that call to action btw if you read this you're required to at least tell me in the comments about what you think your blorbos would do at the mall together.

I'll go first: Nigel should buy Adam a White Chocolate Macadamia cookie from the America's Best Cookies in the food court.

Please drop by the Archive and comment to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!